

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04330 250748Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----047050 250750Z /17

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8549

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T PRETORIA 4330

EXDIS

LAGOS FOR YOUNG, MOOSE AND MC HENRY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, SF, WA

SUBJECT: SAG MILITARY FORCES IN NAMIBIA

REF: (A) PRETORIA 4247; (B) STATE 201258

1. RE PARA 2 OF REFTTEL ?, NO SPECIFIC FIGURE OF TOTAL SADF STRENGTH IN NAMIBIA WAS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED BY GEN. VAN DER WESTHUIZEN DURING COUSE OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH DATT. RESPONDING TO A REMARK BY DATT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WERE FROM 5,000 TO 7,000 TROOPS IN NAMIBIA, GEN. VAN DER WESTHUIZEN SAID THE FIGURE COULD BE SEVERAL TIMES THAT NUMBER AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME SINCE THE TOTAL FORCE LEVELS IN NAMIBIA FLUCTUATE CONSIDERABLY DUE TO THE TRAINING NATURE OF THE OPERATION THERE. THE SADF IS ROTATING ALL OF THEIR UNITS, INCLUDING CITIZEN FORCE AND COMMANDO, THROUGH THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PRETOR 04330 250748Z

OPERATIONAL ZONE TO "GET THE TRAINING YOU WERE ABLE TO GET IN VIETNAM". THE GENERAL STATED THAT SOMETIMES THE REPORTED FIGURE OF 50,000 MAY NOT BE FAR FROM WRONG SINCE NEW UNITS HAVE TO BE MOVED IN BEFORE THE OLD MOVE OUT AND THAT SUPPORT ELEMENTS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL. WHEN DATT AGAIN REFERRED TO 5,000 TO 7,000 COMBAT TROOPS, THE GENERAL DID NOT ADDRESS THAT SPECIFIC DEFINITION OF FORCES BUT SAID THAT TOTAL SADF

PRESENCE WAS HIGHER AND THAT WHATEVER FIGURE IS CORRECT,
"30,000 OR 40,000", IT IS NEVER A CONSTANT FIGURE.

2. COMMENT: DATT SENSED THAT GEN. VAN DER WESTHUIZEN CLEARLY
WANTED TO GIVE AN IMPRESSION OF SADF STRENGTH IN ALL OF
NAMIBIA IN THE 30,000-40,000 RANGE. THE SAG HAS GENERALLY
LIMITED ITS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS TO US CONCERNING THE SADF
ORDER OF BATTLE IN NAMIBIA TO FORCES IN THE COMBAT AREAS.
ASSUMING THEIR FIGURES OF 5,000 TO 7,000 COMBAT PERSONNEL
IN THE OPERATIONAL ZONE IS CORRECT AND A LIKE NUMBER IS
POSITIONED IN THE REAR AREA FOR REPLACEMENT, THEN THE TOTAL
OF 30,000-40,000 IS NOT UNREASONABLE CONSIDERING THE SUPPORT
TROOPS REQUIRED.

3. REFTEL (A) WAS SENT TO DIA. REQUEST THIS MESSAGE AND
REFTEL (B) ALSO BE SHARED WITH DIA.
BOWDLER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, INFORMATION EXCHANGE, NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
DecapTION Date: 22 May 2009
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
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